

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 191830Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4821

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4061

E.O. 11652: GDS

TALS: PFOR, EIND, CU, CS

SUBJECT: CUBAN-COSTA RICAN RELATIONS

1. PRESIDENT ODUBER TOLD ME ON AUGUST 17 THAT HE HAD INFORMED GOVERNMENT OF CUBA THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO APPROVE REOPENING OF COMMERCIAL AND CONSULAR RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND COSTA RICA BUT THAT REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WAS UNFEASIBLE FOR POLITICAL REASONS. HE IMPLIED THAT CUBANS WANTED MORE THAN COMMERCIAL AND CONSULAR RELATIONS, AND HE STATED THAT CASTRO HAD SENT A MESSAGE PROPOSING THAT THE TWO MEET TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION. ODUBER SAID HE HAD TURNED DOWN THIS PROPOSAL.

2. ODUBER ALSO SAID THAT CUBANS HAD OFFERED TO PROVIDE PERSONNEL AND COMPLETE FUNDING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A MODERN FISHING INDUSTRY ON PACIFIC COAST. HIS REPLY TO THAT OFFER WAS THAT HE HAD CONCLUDED AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN WHEREBY SPANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD ASSIST IN THIS PROJECT SO CUBAN ASSISTANCE WAS NOT NEEDED. HE REMARKED THAT HE WAS NOW URGING SPAIN TO BEGIN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION QUICKLY.

3. WITH RESPECT TO COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, ODUBER SAID CUBA WAS ANXIOUS TO BUY ALMOST ANY PRODUCT COSTA RICA COULD SELL. HE MENTIONED BEANS AND PROCESSED FOOD IN PARTICULAR, BUT NOTED SMILINGLY THAT THE MOST RECENT
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SALE INVOLVED LARGE QUANTITY OF LOCALLY-MADE MANHATTAN

BRAND SHIRTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, CUBA HAD LITTLE TO SELL
TO COSTA RICA EXCEPT PRESSURE COOKERS. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO
FIFTEEN YEARS STAGNATION OF CUBAN ECONOMY.
TODMAN

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